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THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

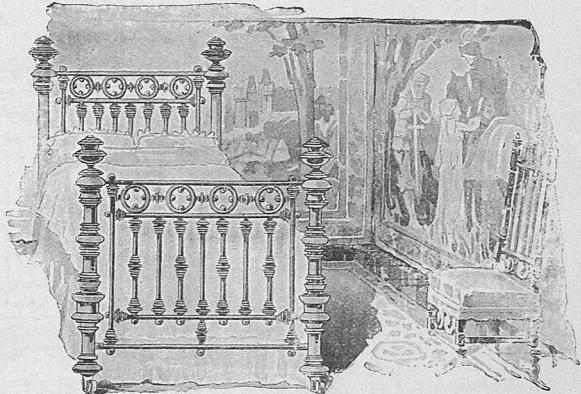
HYGIENE IN THE BEDROOM.

"In bed we laugh, in bed we cry,
And born in bed, in bed we die;
The near approach a bed may show
Of human bliss to human woe."



ONSIDERING that half of one's life is spent in bed, any improvement in such a popular resort should interest our readers. Beds vary widely with the degree of civilization. The savage sleeps upon the leaf-strewn ground of his forest home. The ancient Briton slept upon skins, which were the first approach to beds. After the Roman Conquest he attained to the luxury of straw sacks, which became common as beds, and so on down through the ages a higher degree of civilization has always brought an improvement in bedroom furniture. This improvement has taken place everywhere upon similar lines, so that to-day the form of bed varies little the world over. Upwards of sixty years ago every Englishman slept upon the old "four-poster," so called. It was of wood, always large, usually clumsy in appearance, and not infrequently decorated with much ornamental carving. An exaggerated example is that made famous by Shakespeare as the "Bed of Ware," built about A. D. 1500, and still to be seen in an inn at Ware in Hertfordshire. It is twelve feet square, of solid oak, elaborately carved, and will accommodate twelve people. But to day the wooden bedstead is a thing of the past in England. Dearth of suitable lumber led to the use of brass and iron, and these metallic bedsteads, adopted first from necessity, soon became favorites from choice. This is attested by the fact that here in America, with its abundance of choice, hard woods, there is year by year an ever increasing sale of metallic bedsteads. This triumph of metal over wood simply marks one step higher in civilization. It means that metal is best. It means that scientific men have inquired into this subject and found metallic bedsteads more healthful, that the porosity of wood makes a wooden bedstead a harboring place for germs of disease, and that on account of this same porosity complete disinfection of a wooden bedstead is wellnigh impossible, so that upon a bed of this kind one may never be free from chance of contagion. It needs no scientific knowledge to understand, from the looseness of its joints, how likely a wooden bed-

splendor and rest which seems to relieve tired nerves and to invite a pure and sound repose. In striking contrast to the sombre and musty wooden bed, they are an ornament to the chamber and afford a pleasing vision to weary eyes. It is this very influence, working upon the body through the mind, aside from all sanitary advantages, which has led the medical profession to endorse metallic bedsteads so strongly as invaluable therapeutic agents. One firm alone of English manufacturers, that of Messrs. Hoskins & Sewell, illustrates the wonderful increase in the use of these beds. The enterprise was founded in 1840, and to-day it is the largest concern of the kind in the world, with factories in London and Birmingham, England, and New York. This vast plant gives

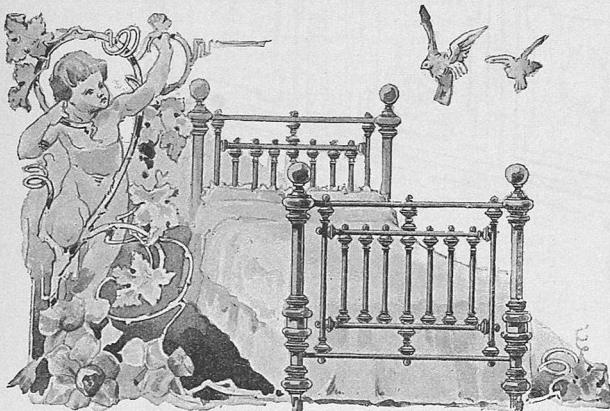


A TAPESTRIED ENVIRONMENT.

employment to 1,600 hands, and in New York alone a stock of 10,000 beds is constantly carried. The bedsteads made by this firm are of a superior quality in design and manufacture, and of a metal which never tarnishes. There could be no stronger endorsement of their product than the fact that despite a very high import duty, it has been recorded that this firm supplies the American market with more brass and iron bedsteads than all the other manufactures, domestic and foreign combined. Their wonderful display at the World's Fair gained for them the three highest awards. The luxurious possibilities in metallic bedsteads was there shown in a specimen bed made by them valued at \$6,000.

The reasons why they are entitled to the first and highest awards for their brass metallic bedsteads are, first, the supreme art merit of the designs, their products being constructed of seamless brass tubing and cast brass which is turned, wrought, fluted, matted, hand chased, burnished, fire-gilt, lacquered and enameled. Secondly, for great excellence of finish in which the brass is gold and silver plated, oxidized, sand finished, satin finished, frosted and plain, and used in combination with ornaments of porcelain and inlaid pearl; the whole being constructed with the most modern and approved workmanship, the exhibit showing bedsteads constructed in every conceivable combination of brass, iron and other metals. Their goods are protected with from twelve to fifty coats of lacquer, which resists without tarnishing, the most sudden and severe changes of climate, and is also proof against the saltpetre which exists in salt sea air, and which will penetrate the most highly polished surface. Their finish does not become discolored by the application of the bare hands, as other finishes will do. Thirdly, the fittings of their bedsteads are beyond possible fault, as no crevices or gaping joints are exhibited. Their chilled castings guarantee them perfectly true, square and graceful, and, unlike the hard castings used by some other manufacturers which show many faults, are, in case of these beds, perfectly smooth and flawless.

This business, which was founded by Mr. E. Hoskins (recently deceased), is ably conducted in England by Mr. F. Hoskins and Mr. E. W. Sewell. But little headway had been made in the American market prior to the advent of Mr. B. R. Barklow as New York manager in 1888. Possessed of energy and enterprise, and connected with the business during all his working life, being familiar with all its details, Mr. Barklow has ably directed the affairs of a business that has grown under his hands here as it grew of old in the country of its origin.



PURITY, GLADNESS, PEACE.

stead is to become the abiding place for vermin. How difficult it is to remove vermin from wood, once colonized, is a matter of sad experience to many.

Specialists who have made careful study into hygienic conditions, and who know how important to many temperaments is the very appearance of the bed-room, strongly endorse metallic bedsteads. There is about them a feeling of cleanliness, a freshness, a sense of